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PAGE 01 ADDIS 02875 01 OF 03 201323Z
ACTION AF-01

INFO	LOG-00	CIAE-00	C-01	OASY-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00	EUR-01
	HA-09	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-16	LAB-01	L-01
	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-00
	PRS-01	P-01	SNP-00	SP-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-00
	USIE-00	RPE-01	PMB-00	/038W			
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O 201323Z APR 94
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1939
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY KAMPALA
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 ADDIS ABABA 002875

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, MOPS, RW, ET
SUBJECT: OAU SECRETARY GENERAL DISCUSSES RWANDA WITH
- REPRESENTATIVES OF OBSERVER COUNTRIES
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PAGE 02 ADDIS 02875 01 OF 03 201323Z

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. ON APRIL 20, OAU SECRETARY GENERAL SALIM SALIM
CALLED A MEETING OF "OBSERVER COUNTRIES" ON RWANDA.
ATTENDING WERE THE AMBASSADORS OF BURUNDI, TANZANIA,
ZAIRE, UGANDA, GERMANY, AND THE U.S., THE CHARGES FROM
BELGIUM AND FRANCE, AND OAU PERSONNEL.

3. SALIM OUTLINED THE ACTIVITIES OF THE OAU: PUSHING
BOTH SIDES TO ACCEPT A CEASEFIRE, A HALT TO THE KILLING,

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AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ARUSHA ACCORDS. HE CONFIRMED THAT TANZANIAN PRESIDENT MWINYI HAS CALLED A MEETING OF BOTH SIDES AND OBSERVERS FOR SATURDAY, APRIL 23, IN ARUSHA. MWINYI HOPES THIS MEETING WILL LEAD TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CEASEFIRE, AND DISCUSSIONS ON HOW TO IMPLEMENT THE ARUSHA ACCORDS. SALIM SAID HE HAD ASKED MWINYI TO INCLUDE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SAFE AREAS FOR NGO'S TO ENABLE THEM TO PROVIDE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE. SALIM ADDED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT OFFICIALS FROM BOTH SIDES CAPABLE OF MAKING DECISIONS ATTEND THIS MEETING.

4. SALIM ALSO PRAISED THE EFFORTS OF UGANDAN PRESIDENT MUSEVENI AND PLEADED FOR CONTINUED UN INVOLVEMENT IN RWANDA. "OTHERWISE THE UN IS SAYING AFRICAN LIVES MATTER LESS THAN LIVES OF PEOPLE ON OTHER CONTINENTS." AMBASSADOR SAID THE U.S. WELCOMED THE OAU'S EFFORTS AND SAID THE USG WAS ALSO WORKING TOWARD THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CEASEFIRE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ARUSHA ACCORDS. HE SAID THE U.S.

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PAGE 03 ADDIS 02875 01 OF 03 201323Z
WOULD BE REPRESENTED AT THE ARUSHA MEETING.

5. BASICALLY, SALIM'S APPEAL FOLLOWED HIS STATEMENT TO THE PRESS ON APRIL 19, THE TEXT OF WHICH FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT: LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE PRESS, I HAVE INVITED YOU THIS AFTERNOON TO SHARE WITH YOU MY PERSONAL CONCERN AND THOSE OF OUR CONTINENTAL ORGANIZATION ON THE SERIOUSLY DETERIORATING HUMAN TRAGEDY TAKING PLACE IN RWANDA, A MEMBER STATE OF OUR ORGANIZATION.

AS YOU ARE ALL NO DOUBT AWARE, THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY AND, INDEED, THE ORDINARY PEOPLE OF AFRICA HAVE BEEN CONCERNED AND CONTINUE TO EXPRESS HORROR, DISMAY AND SHOCK AT THE WANTON KILLINGS AND SENSELESS VIOLENCE DAILY UNFOLDING IN RWANDA.

THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY AT THE LEVEL OF THE CURRENT CHAIRMAN, THE SECRETARY GENERAL, AS WELL AS OF THE CENTRAL ORGAN, HAS REITERATED AFRICA'S DEEP CONCERN OVER THIS HUMAN TRAGEDY - INDEED, OVER MAN'S INHUMANITY TO MAN AS THE RWANDA DRAMA HAS TURNED OUT TO BE.

AS SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE OAU, I WISH TO RECALL THAT

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IN ALL MY STATEMENTS AND PERSONAL CONTACTS WITH THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE RWANDA FRONT, I HAVE CALLED FOR AN IMMEDIATE END TO THE BRUTAL KILLINGS TAKING PLACE IN THE COUNTRY.

I HAVE EQUALLY EXPRESSED GRAVE CONCERN OVER THE RESUMPTION OF HOSTILITIES BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT FORCES
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PAGE 04 ADDIS 02875 01 OF 03 201323Z
AND THOSE OF THE RPF AND HAVE THEREFORE CALLED FOR AN IMMEDIATE HALT TO THE HOSTILITIES TO ENABLE THE TWO PARTIES TO COMMENCE, WITHOUT DELAY, NEGOTIATIONS AIMED AT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ARUSHA PEACE AGREEMENT TO WHICH BOTH THE GOVERNMENT OF RWANDA AND THE RWANDESE PATRIOTIC FRONT HAVE REPEATEDLY PLEDGED THEIR COMMITMENT AND READINESS TO IMPLEMENT WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE ARUSHA PEACE PROCESS.

WE HAVE ALL BEEN FOLLOWING WITH GRAVE CONCERN AND INDIGNATION THE RISING TIDE OF HUMAN SUFFERING IN RWANDA. THIS PLIGHT OF THE RWANDESE PEOPLE HAS CAUSED US ALL THROUGHOUT THE CONTINENT AND BEYOND MUCH PAIN, SORROW AND ANGUISH.

AMONG THE AFFECTED PEOPLE IN RWANDA CAN BE COUNTED THE THOUSANDS WHO HAVE PERISHED IN "HELL ON EARTH" AS THE SITUATION IN RWANDA WOULD SEEM TO EPITOMISE. IN ADDITION, HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF OTHER ORDINARY RWANDESE HAVE BEEN DISPLACED WITHIN THE COUNTRY IN THE MOST INHUMAN CONDITIONS.

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 02875 02 OF 03 201324Z
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PAGE 02 ADDIS 02875 02 OF 03 201324Z

AS SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE OAU, I HAVE BEEN IN CONSTANT TOUCH WITH THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE RWANDA GOVERNMENT AND OF THE RWANDESE PATRIOTIC FRONT. MY LATEST CONTACT WAS WITH THE FIRST VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE RWANDESE PATRIOTIC FRONT, MR. PATRICK MAZIMHAKA, WITH WHOM I HAD VERY LENGTHY DISCUSSIONS ON THE 17TH AND 18TH OF APRIL, RESPECTIVELY, ON THE SITUATION IN RWANDA AND HOW THE OAU, IN CONCERT WITH THE FACILITATOR, PRESIDENT ALI HASSAN MWINYI, AS WELL AS THE UN, WITH THE COOPERATION OF THE TWO PARTIES, CAN BRING ABOUT AN END TO THE MAYHEM AND HUMAN SUFFERING IN RWANDA AND THE IMMEDIATE

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CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES.

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IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN OUR CONVICTION THAT AN END TO THE FIGHTING AND TO THE INDISCRIMINATE KILLINGS SHOULD CREATE CONDITIONS FOR NEGOTIATIONS LEADING TO THE IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ARUSHA PEACE AGREEMENT.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

IT IS AGAINST THE BACKDROP OF THESE CONCERNS AND, INDEED, THE ROLE AND CONCERN OF THE NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES THAT I, UNRESERVEDLY, WELCOME AND SUPPORT THE INITIATIVE TAKEN BY THE PRESIDENT OF TANZANIA, H.E. ALI HASSAN MWINYI, FACILITATOR TO THE ARUSHA PEACE TALKS, TO CONVENE A PEACE CONFERENCE IN ARUSHA, TANZANIA, ON SATURDAY, 23 APRIL 1994.

THE MEETING IS EXPECTED TO BRING TOGETHER REPRESENTATIVES OF THE RWANDA GOVERNMENT AND THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ADDIS 02875 02 OF 03 201324Z
RWANDESE PATRIOTIC FRONT, AS WELL AS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE OBSERVER COUNTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION.

THE GOVERNMENT OF TANZANIA, AS FACILITATOR, IS PROPOSING THIS CONFERENCE WITH TWO MAIN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA. THESE ARE:

A CEASEFIRE;

B) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ARUSHA PEACE AGREEMENT.

I HAVE TODAY, 19 APRIL, BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE PRIME MINISTER OF TANZANIA, HON. JOHN MALECELA, AND THE TANZANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER, HON. JOSEPH RWEGASIRA, TO DISCUSS DETAILS OF THE CONFERENCE. I HAVE, AMONG OTHER THINGS, SUGGESTED THAT THE PROPOSED ARUSHA CONFERENCE SHOULD ALSO PROVIDE US WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS PRACTICAL MODALITIES FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO REACH ALL THE AFFECTED PEOPLE IN RWANDA. IN THIS CONNECTION, I HAVE BEEN APPROACHED BY A NUMBER OF HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATIONS, NOTABLY OXFAM, TO EXPRESS THEIR CONCERNS OVER THE INACCESSIBILITY OF AREAS IN THE CONFLICT ZONES, WHERE THOUSANDS OF RWANDESE HAVE BEEN TRAPPED AND CONTINUE TO SURVIVE WITHOUT EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE AND CARE.

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I WISH, AT THIS JUNCTURE, TO EXPRESS THE UNFLINCHING
SUPPORT OF THE OAU FOR THE PROPOSED PEACE CONFERENCE IN
ARUSHA. I ALSO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EARNESTLY
APPEAL TO BOTH THE RWANDA GOVERNMENT AND THE RWANDESE
PATRIOTIC FRONT TO PARTICIPATE, AT HIGH LEVEL, AT THIS
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PAGE 04 ADDIS 02875 02 OF 03 201324Z
MEETING NEXT SATURDAY. THE PARTICIPATION OF THE TWO
PARTIES IS ESSENTIAL AND IMPORTANT IN ORDER TO FIND WAYS
AND MEANS OF BRINGING TO A DEFINITE END THIS MAYHEM AND
HUMAN SUFFERING. THEIR PRESENCE IS ALSO CRUCIAL IN
BRINGING ABOUT A CEASEFIRE AND ITS CONSOLIDATION SO THAT
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ARUSHA PEACE AGREEMENT CAN BE
CARRIED OUT WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY.

AFRICA AND THE WORLD CANNOT AFFORD TO ADOPT A
WAIT-AND-SEE ATTITUDE; DEFINITELY, THE OAU WILL CONTINUE
TO DO EVERYTHING WITHIN ITS MEANS TO ASSIST IN BRINGING
ABOUT AN END TO THIS HUMAN CATASTROPHE.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE PRESS, I WISH TO CONCLUDE BY
STRESSING THE OAU'S SUPPORT FOR THE CONTINUED ROLE OF
THE UNITED NATIONS IN RWANDA. IN THIS REGARD, I CALL ON
THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL TO CONTINUE TO
PROVIDE THE NECESSARY SUPPORT TO ENABLE THE UNITED
NATIONS ASSISTANCE MISSION FOR RWANDA (UNAMIR) TO
EFFECTIVELY CARRY OUT ITS MANDATE.

I ALSO WISH TO APPEAL TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY,

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PAGE 02 ADDIS 02875 03 OF 03 201324Z

INCLUDING THE VARIOUS NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, TO
PROVIDE INCREASED AND ADEQUATE RESOURCES TO CATER FOR
THE THOUSANDS OF AFFECTED PERSONS IN RWANDA.

FINALLY, IN VIEW OF THE GREAT IMPORTANCE AND
SIGNIFICANCE WHICH TH
E OAU ATTACHES TO THE FORTHCOMING
PEACE CONFERENCE IN ARUSHA, I SHALL PERSONALLY LEAD THE
OAU DELEGATION.

I THANK YOU.

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END TEXT.

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